

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (LAFA)

April 1, 2019

Bayou Rum's Coffee House

20909 South Frontage Road

Lacassine, LA 70650

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Commissioner Mike Strain at 10:31 AM.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Melanie Tullier.

Present: Commissioner Mike Strain, Kent Brown, Devin Davis, Jeanine L. Herrington, H. Marcell Parker, Jr., Ronald Petree, Katie R. Sistrunk, and Calvin Viator

Mrs. Tullier stated there was a quorum with eight members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Strain asked the board members to review the minutes from the December 12, 2018 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2018 meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Brown, and passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mrs. Catrina Irvin presented LAFA's Financial Statements to the board and answered the members' questions.

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to accept the Financial Statements. It was seconded by Mr. Parker, and passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Mr. Ryan Lovell, with National Property Holdings, and Mr. Randy Bennett, with Rail Logix, made a presentation to the board regarding rebranding the Lacassine Industrial Park as the Lacassine Rail Terminal.
- Commissioner Strain updated the board on the upgrades to the sewer and fishing pier at Indian Creek Recreation Area.

OLD BUSINESS

a. 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program

Restore LA approved reallocating \$10 million to the 2016 Louisiana Farm Recovery Grant Program. LAFA is currently awaiting final approval on the reallocation from Housing and Urban Development.

b. Lease of former LDAF Seedling Nursery (approximately 85 acres) at the Monroe office complex

LAFA is currently accepting bid proposals for the leasing of the former LDAF seedling nursery land.

c. LDAF/LAFA's Louisiana Certified Programs

The Louisiana Certified program has had over 276 companies apply. The new Certified Beverage program has 17 members. The staff and several member companies recently attended the Pontchartrain Home Center Show and Louisiana Food Fest.

d. Lease of approximately 2.6 acres to Lacassine Operating Company, LLC (formerly Equilibrium Catalyst, Inc.)

The lease is being finalized, and should be fully executed in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Hire realtor to market available space at Opelousas property

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to allow LAFA to hire a realtor to market the available space at the Opelousas property. It was seconded by Mr. Petree, and passed unanimously.

b. Purchase property currently being leased by the Office of Forestry for the Leesville Standby

A motion was made by Mr. Viator to give Commissioner Strain the authority to negotiate and purchase the Leesville Standby property. It was seconded by Mrs. Sistrunk, and passed unanimously.

c. Acquire property for Food Distribution Warehouse

A motion was made by Mr. Petree to give Commissioner Strain the authority to negotiate and acquire property for the Food Distribution Warehouse. It was seconded by Mrs. Herrington, and passed unanimously.

d. Bid for USDA Service Center in Iberia Parish

LAFAs staff is in the process of reviewing bid documents to build a facility in Iberia Parish for a USDA Service Center. No action will be taken without prior approval from the board.

e. Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure form and Ethics training

Mrs. Tullier notified the board that they will be required to file the Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure form to the Board of Ethics by May 15, 2019. They are also required to take the annual Ethics training during the calendar year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

LAFAs plans to move the fence at the Lacassine Industrial Park to make the facility more secure.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Strain at 11:56 am.